



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

August 1, 2001

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
725 Indiana Avenue, NW.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim response to your letter of June 28, 2001, which expressed concerns regarding the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) approval of a Justification for Continued Operations of W88 Disassembly and Inspection operations. NNSA senior management at Pantex and senior Board staff have discussed this issue during the Board visit to Pantex on July 24, 2001, which resulted in a better understanding of the Board's perspective and intent.

With this understanding, we will provide the 30-day report within 30 days from the date of this letter, in conjunction with the 60-day report. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879, or have your staff contact Dan Glenn of the Amarillo Area Office at 806-477-3182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Beck", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David E. Beck  
Assistant Deputy Administrator  
for Military Application and  
Stockpile Operations  
Defense Programs

cc:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1  
R. Glass, AL  
D. Glenn, AAO  
J. McConnell, DNFSB

